

Report of Accomplishments

Fiscal Year 2005

Camas Soil Conservation District

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Counties Served Camas County

Legislative District(s) Legislative District 25



Conservation District Mission

To promote the wise use of natural resources

Natural Resource Improvements Summary

Through the WQPA program, 92.6 acres of riparian buffer were treated in FY 05. This includes 32,257.3 feet of riparian fencing, 30 log drops, 1 critical area planting and 7 spring developments were installed and cost-shared with the landowners.



Log Drop

Conservation District Priority # 1 - Water Quality

The District adopted and reviewed BMPs from the Natural Resource Conservation Service handbook. One hundred per cent (100%) of the WQPA projects have been focused on improvements to the land that will improve the quality of water. TMDLs are currently being written for the area, but thanks to previous and ongoing BMP installations, significant progress has been made in attaining water quality standards that will meet TMDL requirements.

Conservation District Priority #2 - Reduce Soil Erosion and Improve Water Quality

Through the WQPA program, the District has treated 92.6 acres of riparian buffer, all designed to eliminate the headcuts and bank sloughing that have deposited sediments in the surface waterways. Log drops help stabilize stream gradients, reduce stream velocities, increase groundwater recharge, saturate soils for riparian vegetative communities, provide wildlife habitat, and increase duration of downstream late season flows. The Critical Area Planting allows crop roots to hold the soil in place, also reducing sediments in waterways. The seven spring developments done in FY05 are effective in keeping cattle away from erosive stream banks, again helping to keep surface water clean.

Conservation District Priority # 3 To Improve Rangeland

The District provided cash and in kind contributions to the Southern Idaho Bio-Control program to establish beneficial insects to fight noxious weeds on private and public land, more than 90% of which is rangeland. The Camas Bug Crew began in 1998 supported by Camas SCD and Forest Service donations, and has since grown into a multi-county program that provides summer employment for students who work on the Crews. On each new site, baseline vegetative data is gathered by the students, then insects are released, and the data is entered by the students in a database for review by the Forest Health Protection, USFS. The sites are monitored for insect populations and

effectiveness of weed control. A booklet has been created showing the before and after photos of the original nine sites. The Southern Idaho Bio-Control program now has over ninety sites in four counties that they are monitoring.

Community Collaboration & Coordination

The Camas Soil Conservation District presented hands on training in clean water, geology, paleontology, archeology and wildlife to the Camas fifth graders and teachers at the Little City of Rocks Workshop. Idaho Fish and Game, Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument, North Side Canal Company and NRCS provided training at the Little City of Rocks Workshop. David Skinner, District supervisor and falconer, gave a Birds of Prey presentation at the Natural Resources Workshop north of Ketchum.

They also presented a hands-on demonstration of the concepts of conservation to the fifth graders in Camas through the poster contest (Celebrating Conservation) and presented the awards at a year-end assembly before the parents and school staff. The Annual Conservation Speech Contest provided cash and prizes for the top three winners and the opportunity to go on to the Division level competition. The entire speech class from the Camas County High School participated in the contest.

The Camas Soil Conservation District partnered with the Bliss High School to provide sponsorship of an Envirothon team for the 2005 competition.

The district also provides financial support to the Idaho Forestry Contest and the Soil Evaluation Event, both annual events sponsored by other Idaho soil conservation districts.

Synopsis of Assistance Coordinated for Constituents with Conservation Partners - to plan, design and implement best management practices to protect, enhance, and conserve Idaho's renewable natural resources.

Source	Purpose/Benefit	Funded Amount
WQPA	Clean Water	\$ 56,780.07
NRCS	EQIP	\$ 56,810.00
Camas County	District Operations	\$ 3,800.00
State of Idaho	District Operations	\$ 9,769.85
Total		\$ 127,159.92

Camas Soil Conservation District assisting landowners and operators with their conservation choices through an active cost-share program.



Spring development